

**Unofficial Draft Copy**

As of: January 4, 2008 (9:51AM)

LC5007

\*\*\*\* Bill No. \*\*\*\*

Introduced By \*\*\*\*\*

By Request of the \*\*\*\*\*

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act establishing a ground water investigation program; providing contingent funding for the program through a fee; and providing an effective date."

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

NEW SECTION.    **Section 1. Ground water investigation program**

-- **advisory committee.** (1) The Montana bureau of mines and geology shall develop and implement a ground water investigation program for the purpose of collecting and compiling ground water and aquifer data. The program shall gather data, compile existing information, conduct field studies, and prepare a detailed hydrogeologic assessment report for each subbasin. The program shall develop a monitoring plan for each subbasin for which a report is prepared.

(2) There is a ground water investigation advisory committee appointed by the governor. The committee consists of a representative of the department of natural resources and conservation, the department of environmental quality, the department of agriculture, and the earth sciences department of Montana state university - Bozeman. The advisory committee shall

prioritize subbasins for investigation based upon current and anticipated growth of agriculture, industry, housing, and commercial activity. Permit applications for the development of surface water or ground water may be taken into account in prioritizing subbasins.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Funding.** This section could be used to impose an additional fee on each water permit application filed pursuant to 85-2-302, each subdivision application filed pursuant to 76-3-601, or on each welllog filed pursuant to 85-2-516. The combination of funding needs to raise about \$1.2 million for the biennium in order for the bureau to complete 2 subbasins each biennium.

**DATA:** An average of 415 water permit applications have been received over the past 7 years, but numbers are declining with 205 applications estimated for 2009.

An average of 1053 subdivision applications consisting of an average of 6,733 lots has been filed over the past 5 years.

An average of 5,469 wells have been drilled over the past 7 years with an average total footage drilled of 936,283.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Contingent voidness.** If House Bill No. 2 is passed and approved and contains an appropriation of at

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least \$1.2 million for the ground water investigation program described in [section 1], then [section 2] is void.

## NEW SECTION.    **Section 4.    {standard} Codification**

**instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 85, chapter 2, part 5, and the provisions of Title 85, chapter 2, part 5, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION.    **Section 5.    {standard} Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2009.

- END -

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